



Lowell Memorial Park

Charles River Reservation

September 23, 2014 Public Meeting

The notes were recorded by DCR at the public meeting on the Cultural Landscape Report for Lowell Memorial Park. The report and the presentation are available at: www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/public-outreach/

Public Concerns

Circulation and Pedestrian Safety

- Sidewalk on Fresh Pond Parkway at Brattle Street near “Little Lowell” is narrow, especially for groups of children and their parents
- Possible rerouting of path into parkland at corner?
- Install pedestrian protection (rail?)
- Brick post and walls limit pedestrian travel way
- Can walls be removed?

Wall Repair

- When wall work moves forward, Little Lowell is priority (Phase 1) to address collapsing areas
- Tree removal at walls is a priority
- Why are walls at Little Lowell being repaired when they could be removed?
- Trees function as a sound barrier – removal will increase noise

Traffic

- Enforcement needed to slow cars
- Mt. Auburn/Fresh Pond Parkway redesign?
- Traffic Study in the works

Operations

- What are the operating hours? – Dawn to Dusk
- Mowing of planting strip along parkway seems inconsistent
- Turf maintenance should be improved
- Lighting may improve safety

Site Amenities

- Signage needed to identify park, note park regulations
- Lighting is needed for safety, need better design
- Consider a lighting design for the entire park (not just a single replacement)

What is Lowell Memorial Park?

Lowell Memorial Park is a historic landscape associated with early American politics and culture. It was part of the nation’s first regional park system, and it is the work of a noted designer.

The park is named after poet and diplomat James Russell Lowell, who resided at Elmwood (33 Elmwood Avenue) from 1819-1891. Lowell, along with Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, was one of the famed “Fireside Poets” of nineteenth century America. After Lowell’s death, residents of the City of Cambridge raised private funds to preserve the land surrounding his home. Joining resources with the residents, the Commonwealth purchased the property in 1898 placing it under the control of the Metropolitan Park Commission. The park was designed by the Olmsted Brothers as a memorial park and a gateway to Fresh Pond Parkway.

Lowell Memorial Park is a **National Historic Landmark**, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and located within the Old Cambridge Historic District.

DCR has completed a **Cultural Landscape Report** for Lowell Memorial Park, which lays out preservation priorities for the historic landscape. One of the first priorities is the repair of the historic walls, which requires some tree removals. Read the **report**: www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/conservation/cultural-resources

Contact information

Lowell Memorial Park is part of DCR’s Charles River Reservation and Fresh Pond Parkway, managed by the MassParks Division. To contact DCR please:

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Visit www.mass.gov/dcr